

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, June 10. 1712.

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**I**T is now come to a Point ; the Queen has given from her own Mouth the State of the Peace in View ; it is not for me, or any in my Station, to meddle with the Articles ; no question but our Politicians will be taken up in Canvassing them over and over.

The only Thing that I foresee can be Objected against by them, is the giving *Spain* and the *Indies* to the Possession of King *Philip*, which I suppose is founded upon his Renouncing his Pretensions to the Crown of *France* : I know *French* Renunciations have had but little Re-

putation in the World, but I see where the Solidity of this is plac'd, viz. Upon the other Heirs of *Bourbon* being always Interested to keep out the Pretensions of *Philip* or his Posterity ; I confess there seems to me no Security like that of Interest, to barr the Accession of Princes to the Crowns of this or that Nation : However, as this is a New Point, no Man shall say I espouse this or that, as a Party ; I therefore forbear to give my Opinion as a Leader to any one ; I confess I had rather have seen a good Portion of the *Indies* fall to the Share of the Queen

Queen of *Great Britain*, than have let either Party have had it All, because I believe we know better how to improve it than they, and also have done more to merit that Recompence, than any Body, and because I have all along talk'd on this Head, with a View at Elevating the Protestant Powers of *Europe* to a pitch of Greatness, able to protect their Religious Interests against the Insults of *Perry*, whenever that Time shall come, as I firmly believe it will, that a Religious War shall inflame the World.

Upon this Foundation I have always Argued for breaking the *Spanish* Monarchy to pieces, and for giving such Additions of Power and Extent of Commerce to *England* and *Holland*, as should in its Nature, more firmly Unite the *British* and *Dutch* Interests, and by its Consequence, makes those Powers more Formidable to the World.

If I may judge at all of the Affair as it now stands, it turns wholly upon the Validity of the Renunciation of King *Philip*, and the Powers reserv'd in the Confederates to enforce it — And I'll lay it down as impartially as I can, without Respect of Persons; I hope my Freedom shall be justify'd by all honest Men.

If the Renunciation be a Sham, a Cheat, a Thing of Nothing, a Thing to be toss'd about as Interest directs, and made only to amuse, if it can have no Effect, to bind the Heirs of *Bourbon*, &c. as some People would persuade us, then all the soul Things that have been said of this Peace, may be allow'd to be well-grounded, and those who are so warm against it, have Reason.

But if this Renunciation differs from others; if it effectually divides the Branch of *Philip* from the rest of the House of *Bourbon*; if it Engages the Line of *Berry* and the Line of *Orleans* for ever, a-

gainst the Line of *Anjou*, and Leagues all the present Confederacy with *France*, in Defence of the Duke of *Berry's* Pretensions, and if this be allow'd a sufficient Security, then the Case quite alters, and *Philip* is consider'd as a Third Person, no more Ally'd to *France* than a Stranger, and as safe, respecting French Greatness, to enjoy the *Spanish* Dominions, as a Branch of the House of *Austria*.

So that the whole Dispute now turns upon this single Expedient, and the only Question which remains, is, whether the Renunciation and Guarrantee above-said, be a sufficient Security to *Europe*, that the Kingdoms of *France* and *Spain* shall never come under the Dominion of the same Person? — And as this is a Point which may take up the Heads and Hands of *Europe* for some Time, I shall not give my Opinion one Way or other so hastily as some expect.

But I must now turn a little upon those forward Authors, who have cried out so loudly of a Separate Peace, and a Peace made already, even as far back as *Ober* — I think they may find Room to blame themselves, and blush at the Assurance and Rashness with which they ran away with that Notion, since after all, it appears, that whatever Separate Transactions have pass'd, her Majesty has avoided three Things in these Transactions.

1. No Separate Article has been made to the Advantage of *Britain*, in Prejudice of the Interest of any of the Allies. I mean no acquisition to Us is made, by which any of the Allies are Injur'd, or can be made Jealous.
2. No Separate Treaty has been made, so, as to omit a due Concern for the

the Interest of the rest of the Confederates.

3. No Separate Peace is so concluded, as to withdraw from the Confederacy, and leave the Enemy to fall upon our Allies, to force them into it; but tho' her Majesty may not have been willing, when a Peace is thus in View, to throw away the Lives of so many Thousand Men as must necessarily fall in a Battle, yet the Army continues to protect the Allies, and openly joins in the present Undertaking against *Quesnoy*.

Now the World must be judge between the Queen of Great Britain and Her Allies, whether Her Majesty acts Her Part justly and fairly or no—And whether the Case of a *Separate Peace* is in the Charge, as some would alledge.

Mean time I ended my last, with giving you an odd kind of reason, why I did not believe we should yet make a *Separate Peace* with France, and I came to the Point without any Ceremony, viz. That I did not believe the Allies would let you do it: I now come to explain myself; nothing that yet appears of the Peace, having given me the least Cause to alter that Opinion.

The Third Article of our Apprehensions, which I gave you lately, as the Consequences People pretend to fear from the Peace, was, the Confederates declaring War against us.

This is the Effect of those Mercurial People's Imaginations, who are so warm upon us in behalf of the Confederates, on the Occasion of the Peace, that not content to tell us the Resolutions of the *Sates-Genetal*, of the Emperor, and of the Princes who have Troops in the Army, tho' nothing is more true, than that they know nothing at all of them, how

that *These* are resolv'd to push on the War without the *British* Alliance, and *These* have resolved to pay their own Troops, yet we all know, not one of them, the Elector of *Hannover* excepted, are able to do it, No, nor to pay their own Debts neither, any more than their Neighbours—Not content, I say, with this, they talk now, with equal Wisdom, of the Allies, turning Faces about, and declaring against Britain also, by Way of Satisfaction for deserting the Grand Alliance.

I shall wave the just Remarks on this Foolish Talk, which really is no more than talk, and that very insignificant too, and come to my Point, viz. To tell you what I mean by the Allies not letting us make a *Separate Peace*; there's very little Riddle in it—The following Story will go a great Way to make it plain.

*Jack* and *Tom* agree to go a Journey together.

Upon the Road they differ.

Says *Jack* to *Tom*, let us go to *York*.

I won't, says *Tom*, it is out of our Way.

But I will go by *York*, says *Jack*, and if you won't, I'll go without you.

That isn't fair, says *Tom*, for we agreed when we set out, not to part Company.

Tis no matter for that, says *Jack*, we have Rambled this Way out of our Road, and lost ourselves; the Road by *York* is good and safe, and I know the Way, I'll go that Way.

You are a Fool, says *Tom*, and a Knave too, for parting Company, besides, they Cheat you, that tell you the Road to *York* is good, and I won't go that Way.

Nay.

Nay, *says Jack*, if that be the Method you deal with me, if that be the RETURN you make me for Travelling thus far with you, and bearing the GREATEST SHARE of the EXPENCE of the Journey, and now for Advising you to go the best Road, do you give me ill Language? I tell you I'll go no farther this Way, I'll go without you.

You shan't, tho', *says Tom*.

Why, what will you do, *says Jack*?

Do! *says Tom*, as bad a K——e as you are, we won't fall out neither, I'll go with you, rather than be left so far off of Home.

And so they very lovingly Travelled on the rest of their Journey; whether of the two, *Jack* or *Tom*, was in the Right, we may tell you, when we give a Journal of the rest of their Travels, but for the present, this may Illustrate our Story.

*England, Holland, &c.* set out this Journey together, and a great Way they went Hand in Hand: It seems, at last, they differ about several Things, such as

the length of the Way, the Expence of Travelling, the Hazards of the Road, the Gain of the Journey, and the like: I have nothing to do here with the particulars of the Disputes, they are not to the present Purpose at all, nor are they much the wiser, who have spent so much of their Time, and vented so much of their Spleen on both Sides upon this Subject; their Arguments having principally serv'd only to exasperate and provoke one Side against another; widen that Breach which these Things have made, in the Peace and good Neighbourhood of our People at Home, one Side against another, and to raising Feuds, Heats, and Animosities among us, without adding to, or diminishing from the Measures which the Nations take on one Side, or on the other.

Now the Travellers seem to be parted, as to the Journey; *Britain* having resolv'd to go a Way which the other would fain avoid; and what is the Consequence? Do you think the *Dutch* will part Company? You may think as you please, but I do not believe a Word of it, nor will I believe a Word of it till I see farther.

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